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County Life

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Hometown Christmas

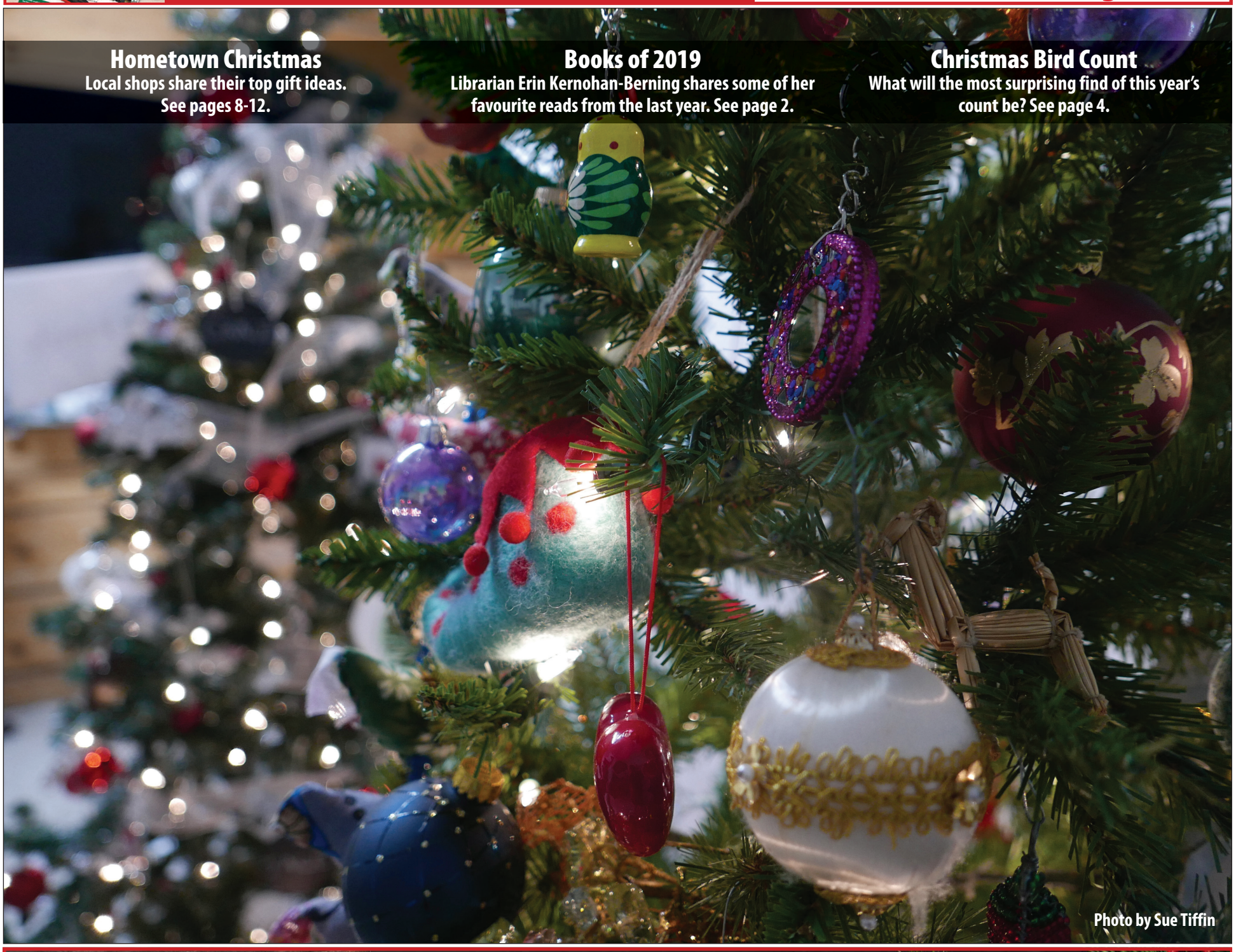
Local shops share their top gift ideas. See pages 8-12.

Books of 2019

Librarian Erin Kernohan-Berning shares some of her favourite reads from the last year. See page 2.

Christmas Bird Count

What will the most surprising find of this year's count be? See page 4.



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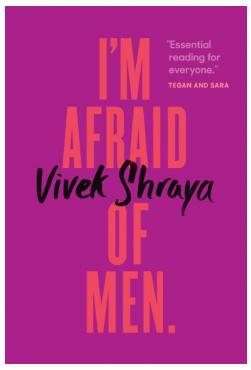
Getting out of the reading-rut with 2019 favourites

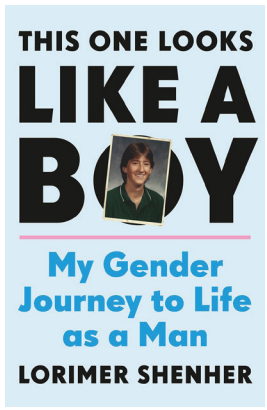
ERIN KERNOHAN-BERNING
ERIN'S EDITIONS

EVERY YEAR I post a reading goal on the book recommendation website Goodreads. It's always 50 books. I never read 50 books. I usually manage about half that, but it's nice to have a goal. However many books I read, I always have a handful that I'm eager to share – whether a book was particularly enlightening, or an audiobook had a standout narrator, or I read something that got me out of my inevitable reading-rut. This year, I'll share some of my favourite books of 2019, and a bit about why they were my favourites.

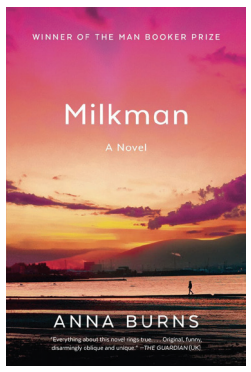
Most Enlightening Duo

I read *I'm Afraid of Men* by Vivek Shraya and *This One Looks Like a Boy* by Lorimer Shenher one right after the other. Both books are about being transgender, but coming from vastly different points of view. Despite their very different lived experiences, and different styles of expression, Shraya and Shenher tread some very common ground around how not living as their true selves affected their life choices, what it means to live a good life and be a good person, the importance of being able to live with dignity, and how important empathy is in helping make everyone's lives better.





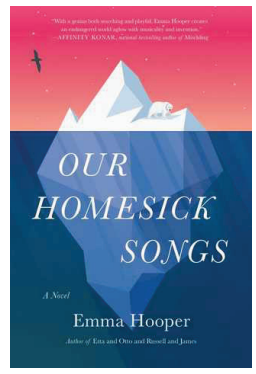
Where an Audiobook Made All the Difference



Milkman by Anna Burns won the Booker Prize in 2018, and was shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2019. The main character, Middle Sister, is busy trying to keep her Maybe-Boyfriend a secret from her Mother, when First-Brother-in-Law catches wind of her encounter with the Milkman – a dangerous renouncer-of-the-state. In *Milkman*, Burns strips away the names of the places and characters, referring to them only by their relationship to one another. This makes for a captivating but challenging read, and in my case the audiobook made all the difference. Brid Brennan does a pitch-perfect job of narrating this audiobook, which is available on Overdrive.

Best Recommendation from My Mom

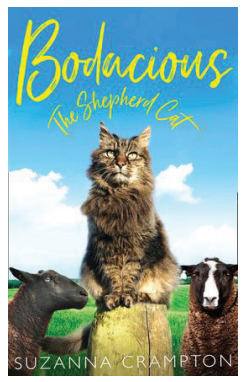
Mom and I talk about what we are reading on a pretty regular basis, and while our reading tastes aren't completely alike, there's usually at least a few books per year that we both really like.



Our Homesick Songs by Emma Hooper was one that Mom kept reminding me about – have you read *Our Homesick Songs* yet? The story takes place in a fictional Newfoundland fishing village where the fish have disappeared and people are slowly moving away. The Connor family find themselves split in two as parents Aidan and Martha take turns flying out to Alberta for work, while children Cora and Finn dream up ways to get their family back together again. When a letter arrives, detailing plans to relocate the remaining residents, Finn is determined to bring the fish back so that no one has to leave home. *Our Homesick Songs* is a tear jerker, but in the best sort of way. It's a story about how family and home can transcend where you live, even when they feel so strongly rooted to it. Thanks, Mom.

The Book that Broke Me out of My 2019 Reading Rut

I had been picking through the same book for a couple of months when *Bodacious: The Shepherd Cat* by Suzanna Crampton came in. Bodacious was a great big tabby cat adopted by Crampton, a shepherd in Ireland. He found his way onto the Twitter feed for her farm because of his willingness to accompany her as she tended to her herd of Zwartbles sheep. While many Twitter-to-book adaptations fall flat, Crampton uses *Bodacious* as a conduit to write her own memoir, rather than just rehashing the same old memes. Through his eyes, she is able to write about her fascinating life with humility and self-deprecating humour. Sadly, Bodacious died earlier this year, but this modern-day *All Things Great and Small* still stands as a meaningful tribute to their extraordinary relationship.



The library is a great place to find new things to read, and all the books I've mentioned here I stumbled on in one way or another at Haliburton County Public Library. Drop in to your local branch and see what new books you can discover.

> *Our Homesick Songs is a tear jerker, but in the best sort of way. It's a story about how family and home can transcend where you live.*

County Life

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For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

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Classical concert series selling 2020 passes

The Haliburton Concert Series organizers have announced the performers for 2020, the 42nd season of concerts.

The season will open on May 3 with the **Cheng² Duo**. Cellist Bryan Cheng and pianist Silvie Cheng were named one of CBC Music's "30 hot Canadian classical musicians under 30" in 2015. This brother and sister have presented recitals across North America, and their playing is steeped in a rare balance of infectious joy and mature interpretations. Their program is entitled Russian Soul, and will include music by Prokofiev, Glazunov, Rachmaninoff, Arensky, and Scriabin.

Buzz Brass, a brass quintet of two trumpets, two trombones, and horn, will be the featured musicians for the second concert on Sept. 13. Fringe Review calls Buzz Brass "five very serious musicians with an art for clowning and communication. An absolute must for any music lover." They have tremendous energy and humour, and their original interpretations of the classics have captivated audiences in North America, Europe, and Asia.

The season will close on Oct. 18 with **Nesrallah and Kortgaard**. Julie Nesrallah is known as "the girl in the chair with the big hair," the engaging host of CBC Radio 2's Tempo, but she's also known around the world for her captivating personality, and rich, expressive, mezzo-soprano voice. She has performed with leading opera companies, symphonies, festivals, and chamber ensembles, and sang God Save the Queen for "Will and Kate" on their first visit to Canada in 2015. She will be accompanied by pianist Robert Kortgaard, who is no stranger to the Haliburton series, having performed here with several other musicians in the past.

All concerts take place on Sunday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. in the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School in Haliburton village. At intermission complimentary refreshments will be served by the organizing committee, and after the concert you will be able to meet and chat with the musicians.

Tickets are now available, and make great Christmas gifts for those who enjoy classical music. They are sold three different ways: as a series of all three concerts (adults $60, students $25), your choice of any two concerts (adults $50), and your choice of any single concert (adults $30, students $10). Contact Fred Shuttleworth at 705-455-9060 or fred.ann.shuttleworth@gmail.com.

More information about the series is available at www.haliburtoncs.blogspot.com and on Facebook at facebook.com/haliburtoncs.

Brother and sister Bryan Cheng and Silvie Cheng make up the Cheng² Duo. They are opening this year's concert series on May 3.

Robert Kortgaard and Julie Nesrallah will perform on Oct. 18, 2020 to close the Haliburton Concert Series for its 42nd year.

Quintet Buzz Brass bring energy and humour to their performances, captivating audiences around the world. They perform in Haliburton Sept. 13.

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Join this year's Minden Christmas Bird Count

ED POROPAT
Christmas Bird Count

Well, it's almost that time of year again. The 53rd annual Minden Christmas Bird Count is quickly approaching, and will be held on Saturday, Dec. 14. This count will be one of thousands that will take place across North America over a three week period. Originally, this traditional event was an actual hunt held on Christmas Day, where teams competed to shoot as many birds (and furred creatures) in a day as possible. Eventually, by 1900, it evolved into a bird census instead of a hunt. Today, tens of thousands of citizen scientists gather together to participate in these counts and help provide a snapshot of changing bird populations across the continent. When combined with other projects such as the Breeding Bird Survey, the event provides invaluable data to determine the long-term health of our avian populations, and helps provide a dynamic picture of how these populations have changed over time and space.

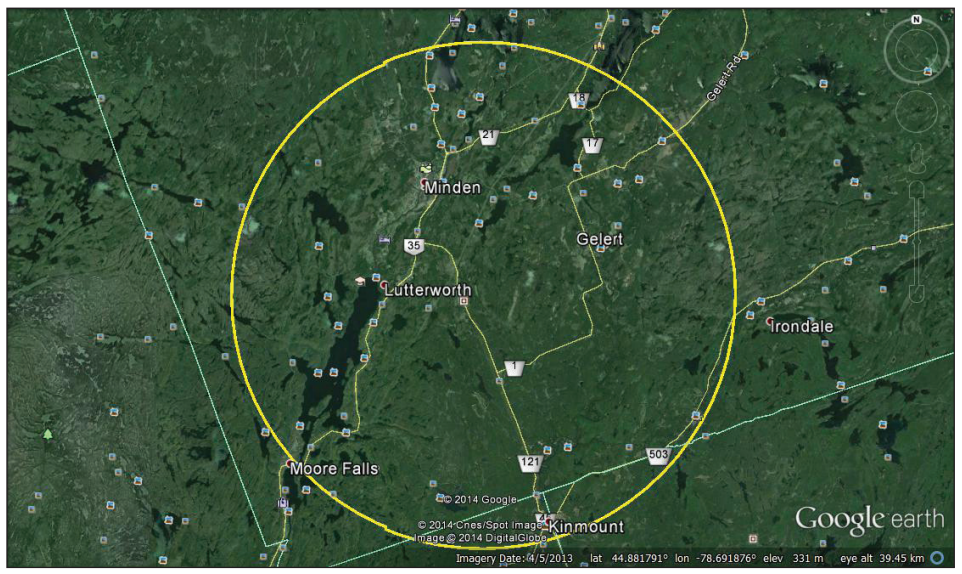
So, how does a bird count operate anyways?

A standardized 24km diameter circle is utilized year after year. Our count circle is centred south of Minden, and was chosen by former Minden resident Dennis Barry (the original compiler of this count for 50 years!). It includes as many habitats as possible, especially open water. The area encompasses the communities of Lochlin, Gelert, Kinmount, Moore Falls, Miners Bay, and, of course, Minden. Every year, field participants travel to the count circle and attempt to count as many birds as possible within a 24 hour period. At the same time, feeder watchers are observing from the cozy comfort of their homes, and sharing what they find. The data is compiled, submitted to the National Audubon Society, and analyzed with other counts over the long term. Although bird numbers can fluctuate enormously in a region year-to-year, it is this long-term view, combined with continent wide data, that is vital to assessing and understanding actual declines.

Every year is different when counting birds. Some years, winter finches abound due to food shortages in other regions of the country. Unseasonably cold winters freeze any remaining open water, causing waterfowl to depart to the south. Mild winters have the opposite effect, encouraging waterfowl and gulls to linger. Even passerines, such as robins, grackles, or sparrows, will attempt to over-winter, if food supply is adequate. So what does this year look like?

Where are all the birds this year?

Many of you have likely noticed the lack of birds at your feeders. Fear not! A quick walk around any woods near you will reveal a heavy cone crop on most conifers (cedar, tamarack, fir, and spruce), excellent seed production on many hardwoods (maple, ash, and oak), and a good berry/fruit crop. With all this available natural food, many birds are taking advantage of food around them, and not needing to rely on feeders as heavily. I hear goldfinches almost daily in my yard, for example, and have yet to see one on any of my feeders. A similarly excellent crop of food to the north and northeast of us means many winter finches will be non-existent or in low numbers this winter.



The 24 km count circle used for the Minden Christmas Bird Count since 1967.

What can I expect to see this year?

Food, more than weather, is the limiting factor for bird survival in winter. The excellent oak mast this year means blue jays will remain in strong numbers this season. A healthy cone crop has allowed red-breasted nuthatches, purple finches, and goldfinches to linger in the county, instead of migrating south. Because of the heavy cone and berry crops to the north, grosbeaks, redpolls, and Bohemian Waxwings will likely not extend as far as Haliburton County. This is mostly true of crossbills, also, although there have been some small flocks wandering about. Look or listen for them around good hemlock or spruce stands with many cones visible. Golden-crowned Kinglets and Brown Creepers seem to be in good numbers this year, as they investigate cones, branches, and trunks for insects to eat. Gulls and waterfowl are still present in large numbers, but this can change quickly if the lakes freeze solid, and they have no open water to roost in at night. There are still a few Common Loons in the area. Bald Eagles continue to increase in number around the province, with a healthy population over-wintering in the region, especially around the landfills.

With the healthy food crop in Haliburton region, there is a possibility for some interesting birds to linger for the count this year. Hanging baskets or balls of fat/suet at this time of year can draw in some of these rarer visitors. A few of the hardier warblers such as Pine or Yellow-rumped will take advantage of

see page 5

Blue jays are common this year.

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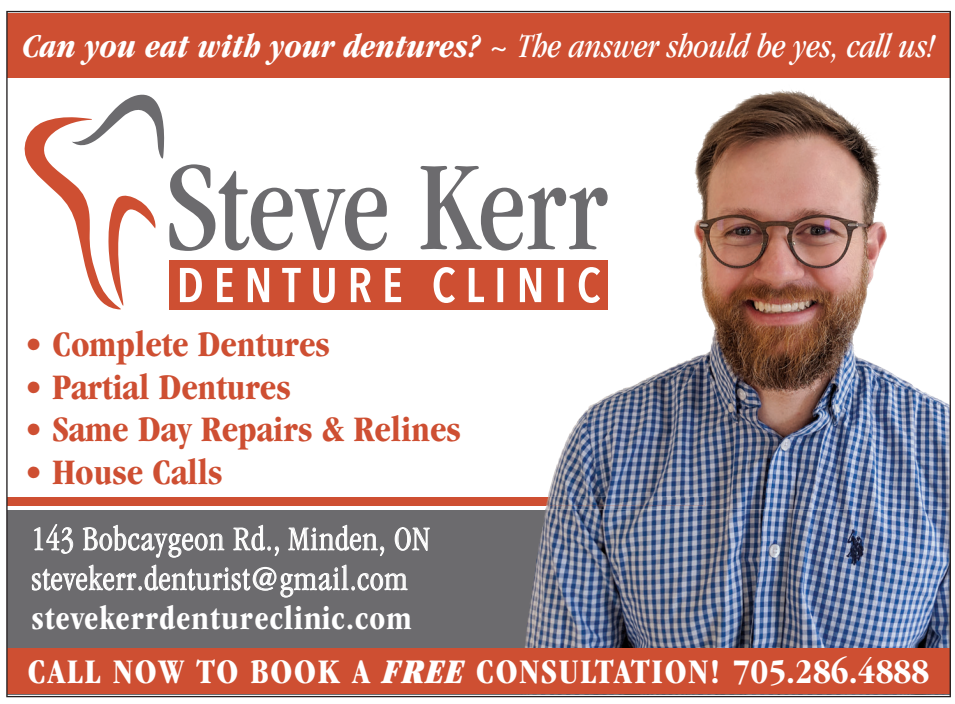
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What will be the best bird found in 2019?

from page 4

these feeding stations. The Canada Jay (formerly called Gray Jay) has all but disappeared from the southern Haliburton County landscape in the last few decades. They are especially drawn to suet feeders, and will be a species we will be targeting during the count.

What will be the best bird found in 2019? The hummingbird observed last year was an incredible find! Could this year bring a Brown Thrasher? A Northern Mockingbird? A rare northern owl, such as a Boreal Owl?

How can I help, and where do I send my results?

Keeping feeders well stocked in the coming few weeks will benefit resident birds and field counters, as we approach the Minden Christmas Bird Count. If you would like to participate as a field counter or a feeder watcher, please contact Ed Poropat at 705-457-3018 or email at ed.barb@sympatico.ca.

To report birds at your feeder on the day of the count, phone 705-286-1189 between 5 and 7 p.m. on Dec. 14, or phone Ed on Dec. 15. Alternatively, you can email your results to Ed or mail them to 71 Dean Court, Box 1204, Haliburton, ON, K0M 1S0.

Results must be received by Jan. 6 in order to be included in the report to American Birds. Species not seen by anyone on Dec. 14, but found on Dec. 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, or 17, will be recorded as Count Week birds.

We hope you'll join us on Dec. 14 to help make the 53rd Christmas Bird Count in Haliburton County the best ever.

A rare adult Great Black-backed Gull visits the local landfill.

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Send your letters to the editor to jenn@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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A Grownup Christmas

SHARON LYNCH
Down Our Road

IT DIDN'T FEEL at all like the Christmas season. Although they were living in Canada, there was no snow and rain kept the landscape looking more like spring that winter. To someone from Ontario, December on the west coast was a disappointment though not a total surprise. As Hank walked through the mall, he took in the seasonal decorations with a sad sigh. It just didn't feel like Christmas.

Hank would be the first to tell you he had been spoiled as a child and young adult, especially at Christmas. When you're the only kid in the family, there is no competition for gifts, shortbread or which Christmas show to watch. No comparing your dump truck to your brother's fire engine or hockey skates to skis. And not knowing any other way to be, Hank had taken the attention and generosity as only right. After all, he was a child and Christmas was about making him happy, right?

Sure he knew he and his parents went to church where they talked about what happened in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago. But that was just something to get through so he could then enjoy the real idea behind Christmas – decorations, presents and delicious treats.

All children grow up – even Hank. Eventually he met the woman of his dreams, married and the two of them moved away when Hank got a career offer he couldn't refuse. It was an adjustment. Not only being so far from his family, but also the whole "west coast vibe." He tried to explain that term to his folks when he spoke to them on their weekly phone calls. But to be honest, neither he nor they really understood what it meant. In other words, Hank was still getting used to his new home. Wife Sally on the other hand seemed quite content and comfortable in their new city and new lifestyle.

As Christmas drew nearer, Hank realized he and Sally had to be careful with how much they spent for gifts and all the other seasonal trappings. They were just starting out as a couple and were trying to save for a house. When Sally remarked over breakfast that morning that really Christmas wasn't about gifts and parties, Hank mumbled agreement into his porridge. He wanted to be a grownup about the whole thing but there was still a disappointed child inside who craved excess and attention and all those things that had made him happy when he was nine years old.

So he trudged through the mall, not buying Sally the cashmere sweater he knew she'd love or the cordless drill he wanted to gift to himself. Instead there was a music box with a rose painted on its lid and he bought it. Roses were Sally's favourite flower. He also picked up some red socks and underwear so everything matched without breaking the bank. For himself, he bought nothing.

When you're the only kid in the family, there is no competition for gifts, shortbread or which Christmas show to watch. No comparing your dump truck to your brother's fire engine or hockey skates to skis.

The Christmas tree was rather small so it would fit both their apartment and budget. Sally bought a handmade ornament at a craft market and said it would be the first in a yearly tradition. Hank liked that idea. It was a new one to him.

Christmas morning dawned grey and damp. They could barely see English Bay with the fog and drizzle outside their balcony. To Hank, the tree looked pathetic with its four or five small gifts tucked under it. But then he saw Sally's face. She was so excited for him to open her two presents to him. The first was a pair of mitts she had actually knitted. They would be perfect in this milder climate but when had she made them? The other gift was their wedding photo in an antique frame she had found in an old shop on Fourth Avenue. It was very ornate and made they look like a pair of royals.

The music box was a big hit as were the socks and underwear. She laughed with delight at his colour choice.

Sally made French crepes with strawberries and maple syrup for brunch and then they strolled along the beach, holding hands. The fog had lifted and a watery sun caught the waves rippling in. There was no snow. But there was a lot of love.

Top 10 ways to keep your cat out of the Christmas tree

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

CATS ARE NICE to have around. Those are the words no one has ever said after setting up a Christmas tree. That's because a cat's sole purpose in life is to destroy the Christmas tree you just spent hours decorating. Luckily, I have discovered 10 ways to prevent that:

1. Put a ribbon around a new Rottweiler pup and chain it to the tree.
2. Electrified garland.
3. Forget evergreens; decorate a hawthorn this year.
4. Third strike: dress them up as elves.
5. Hire a two-year-old security guard.
6. Trained falcons.
7. Give the kids laser pointers.
8. Ridiculous amounts of catnip.
9. Divert them with a new couch.
10. Place an empty box right beside the tree.

The Festival of Trees, a favourite festive event for many, celebrated its 10th year anniversary this year from Nov. 22 to 24 at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. More than 50 decorated trees, gift certificates and gift baskets were raffled off to the crowds of people who visited over the weekend. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

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come visit us, or give us a call!

Most repairs can be done on a same day service basis!

Whip up some cheesy onion dip pinwheels

Nothing is more comforting when the cold weather hits than a bowl of onion soup. This recipe takes that classic flavour and turns it into a bite-sized appetizer to serve at your next holiday party!

Preparation Time: 15 minutes
Cooking Time: 14 minutes
Baking Time: 14 minutes
Makes 24

2 tbsp (25 mL) butter
1 Ontario Leek, white part, quartered and thinly sliced
1 Ontario Onion, thinly sliced
1/2 cup (125 mL) shredded Ontario Mozzarella Cheese
1/4 cup (50 mL) block cream cheese, at room temperature
1/4 cup (50 mL) Ontario Sour Cream
1/2 tsp (2 mL) onion powder
1/4 tsp (1 mL) each salt and pepper
235 g refrigerated crescent roll dough

In large skillet, melt 1 tbsp (15 mL) of the butter over medium heat. Stir in leek; cook, stirring for 4 minutes, or until softened. Set leek aside in medium bowl. In same skillet, melt remaining butter. Stir in onion, cook for 7 to 10 minutes, stirring often, until onion is deep brown and softened. Add onion to leek. Stir in mozzarella cheese, cream cheese, sour cream, onion powder, salt and pepper until well combined.

On lightly floured surface, gently roll out dough into large rectangle 14- x

Holiday Shop
Top 5 Picks
TEK Jewelry
1. Gold and white gold jewelry up to 50% off
2. Pierre Laurent Swiss Made Night Table Clocks 40% off
3. Pierre Laurent Watches 35% off
4. Sterling Silver Sets 35% off
5. Sterling Silver Fresh Water Pearls only $20

Holiday Shop
Top 5 Picks
Cindy's
1. Pashmina scarves for $10.99
2. Sweaters starting at $20.00
3. Purses $29.99 and up
4. Jewelry, hats and mitts starting at $12.99
5. Yoga pants $29.99

Holiday Shop
Top 5 Picks
Matthew & Madlyn Co.
1. Kindness Matters Pillow (various colours and designs)
2. Cork Coffee Mug
3. Scrubs
4. Journals
5. New Adult Hoodies, clothing and more

Holiday Shop
Top 5 Picks
UpRiver Trading Co.
1. Large assortment of Woodwick Candles
2. Corkcicle products for the entire family
3. Lover's Tempo Jewelry
4. Women's Fashion Scarves
5. POKOLOKO Throws

Mathew & Madlyn Co.
Holiday Shopping Starts Here!
• Soft and cozy clothing
• Kindness Matters Journals
• Living Libations Products
Starting Saturday spend over $125.00 in-store or online and receive a beautiful reusable canvas tote for free!
Highland & York Street, Haliburton

Up River Trading Co.
WE'RE STAYING OPEN LATE FOR LADIES NIGHT!
Join us in **HALIBURTON** for in-store specials, holiday treats, and your chance to win **FABULOUS** door prizes! Open until 8pm (or later)!
AND join us on **SATURDAY DECEMBER 14** at **UP RIVER HALIBURTON** for our **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE!**
MORE AMAZING SALES, PRIZES AND HOLIDAY CHEER! 8:30AM - 5:30PM.
106 Bobcaygeon Road @uprivertradingco

9-inch (35 x 23 cm). Spread onion filling evenly over the entire surface of dough (if filling is hard to spread, microwave on High for 30 seconds); roll-up lengthwise to form a log.

Slice log into 1/2-inch (1 cm) rounds, place on parchment paper-lined baking sheet. Bake in 375°F (190°C) oven for 14 minutes or until lightly browned.

Tips: Filling can be made in advance and kept in the refrigerator for up to 3 days. Baked pinwheels can be frozen in a re-sealable plastic bag and thawed by placing in the microwave on High for 30 seconds.

Foodland Ontario

Holiday Shop
Top 5 Picks
Glecoff's Family Store

1. *Nomaad Jewellery*
2. *LOL Dolls*
3. *Wide Selection of Clocks and Rustic Decor*
4. *Northern Comfort Bear Family Socks and Accessories*
5. *Fart Ninja*

Holiday Shop
Top 5 Picks
Northern Expressions

1. *Moccasins*
2. *Sheets, Pillows, Quilts*
3. *Teak Cutting Boards*
4. *Lamps & Lighting*
5. *Canadian Made Art*

GLECOFF'S FAMILY STORE GLECOFF'S FAMILY STORE

Ladies Night

Thursday, December 5
5 to 8pm

30% OFF
Entire Store!

Free gift card for the first 50 ladies!

Raffle prizes and free draws!

Refreshments and treats

GLECOFF'S
FAMILY STORE
HALIBURTON 705-457-2715

GLECOFF'S FAMILY STORE GLECOFF'S FAMILY STORE

Holiday Shop
Top 5 Picks

Cottage Country Log Cabin

1. *Scented Candles including The Serendipity Candle Company products*
2. *Hatley Jammies for the entire family*
3. *Over 40 local Lake Names in stock: Mugs, clothing, pillows and more*
4. *Treats, Sweets & Salt Water Taffy*
5. *Jam, Mustards, Preserves and more*

Holiday Shop
Top 5 Picks

JoAnne Sharpley's Source for Sports

1. *Blundstone*
2. *Hali. lifestyle clothing (Matt Duchene)*
3. *FXR*
4. *Smith helmets*
5. *Louis Garneau snowshoes*

**Some exclusions may apply*

Big Hibernation Sale
25-50% OFF
Selected Items Storewide

Festive Gift Baskets

100% Canadian Recycled Plastic Outdoor Furniture
Adirondack Chairs • Pub Sets • Rockers • Outdoor Couches

C.R. PLASTIC PRODUCTS

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- Saltwater Taffy 30+ Flavours
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- Hatley Clothing

- Personalized Lake Items
- Over 40 Local Lake Names in stock
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- Cottage Comforts
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Closed for a short hibernations January 1, to March 5, 2020

How to create a durable gingerbread house

Gingerbread cookies and houses are one of the many symbols of the holiday season, alongside Christmas trees and twinkling lights. In fact, few confections symbolize the holidays more so than gingerbread.

Many a child (or a child at heart) has spent hours carefully trying to create decorative gingerbread houses. Although gingerbread recipes span various cultures, gingerbread houses originated in 16th century Germany. The fairy tale "Hansel and Gretel" helped solidify the popularity of gingerbread, which became part of Christmas traditions.

Even though gingerbread houses can be fun to make, there's no denying it can be exacting work - especially for those who strive for perfection. Prepackaged kits attempt to take some of the guesswork out of the equation, but those who are crafting from scratch can employ these tips as they build their gingerbread houses.

- Go for form and not flavour. Few gingerbread houses ever get eaten, so focus on finding a dough that will bake up rock hard as opposed to one that tastes good.
- Get the right icing texture. Pastry artist Catherine Beddall says royal icing is the preferred "glue" to adhere gingerbread pieces. Beddall says icing should be thick like peanut butter and not runny.
- Mind the dough. Do not roll out the gingerbread dough too thin or it may become brittle after being cooked. Always cut out shapes before the gingerbread is baked. Let the baked pieces sit overnight to cool completely before using them to build.
- Patience is key. Allow the icing to dry for at least a couple of hours after adhering each piece and before moving and handling the house, says Beddall. Work in stages so that individual items can be decorated and allowed to dry. Then the walls can be put together, followed by the roof pieces.
- Kids likely will need help. Children may not have the patience or steadiness to handle complete gingerbread construction. They can decorate the separate pieces of the house while the components are laying flat, which is easier for kids. Adults can do the main assembly later on.
- Utilize a template. Free-handing may not be easy. Cut out templates using cardboard or posterboard for various gingerbread pieces.

One of the most important tips is to have fun. Don't take gingerbread house making too seriously as a novice. Rather, enjoy the experience and the centuries-old tradition.

JOANNE SHARPLEY'S
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or at 705-457-3933
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The first 25 customers that spend over $100 or more will receive a $25 gift certificate for the store.

Come in and enjoy some refreshments and hors d'oeuvres.

Some exclusions apply. All clearance items are final sale.

As always, Santa Claus took care to wave and shout hello to as many parade-goers as possible.

Here comes Santa Claus

This crowd of youngsters went wild for Santa, craning their necks to get a glimpse of him as he approached and then yelling his name as he passed by with a wave./SUE TIFFIN Staff

Minden's 20th annual Santa Claus parade brought holiday spirit and festive cheer to the streets, where crowds lined Bobcaygeon Road on Nov. 23 for the event.
Middle photo: Kayla Gillooly distributes candy as part of Northern HVAC Co.'s fun and festive float.
Bottom right: The Algonquin Shrine Club waved hello to crowd members who thanked them for their work.

Downtown Haliburton

Women's Shopping Night

Thursday, December 5th
5:00pm to 8:00pm

• Sales in our Stores • Free Give-Aways
• Enjoy the Songs of the Strolling Carolers
• Visit our Warming Station at the Village Barn:
FREE Hot Chocolate & FREE Shopping Bags

Get Your Passport Here,
Visit at least 5 Businesses
& Enter the Draw to
Win 1 of 5
$100 Foodland
Gift Cards!

Algonquin Outfitters
Aprons & Soaps
Bernstein's General Store
Castle Antiques & Cafe
Cindy's
Country Pickin's
Cranberry Cottage
Glecoff's Family Store
Haliburton Foodland
Haliburton Furniture
The Hive
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Lacey's Hair Design
Lockside Trading Company
Master's Bookstore
Mathew Madlyn
Mixtape Vintage
Russell Red Records
Rexall
Shoppers Drug Mart
Tek Jewellers
Up River Trading Company
Wind in the Willows

This Christmas and Holiday Season

THINK LOCAL
SHOP LOCAL

For unique gifts and experiences for your family, friends and neighbours...show your special someone that you care.

Come Wander – Downtown Haliburton!

Downtown Haliburton

SIRCH Community Services' annual community fundraising campaign

Gifts *from the* Heart

This year marks the 8th time SIRCH has held its Gifts from the Heart campaign. Over the years, your generous donations have allowed us to impact real needs in this county, like hunger, poverty and isolation. It's heartbreaking to know there are seniors right here in Haliburton County who have no food, families who have to decide whether to pay their rent or feed their families, or to know individuals who don't have warm winter clothing.

Our goal is to raise $35,000. Your donations will stay right here in Haliburton County to help a child, a senior or a family who is in need. Please help us feed, connect and care for those less fortunate in our community.

Donate today to Gifts from the Heart.

With our heartfelt thanks,

Barbara Fawcett

Barbara Fawcett, President
Board of Directors
SIRCH Community Services

What SIRCH means to me and my family

For 30 years, SIRCH Community Services' unwavering belief in people and possibilities has greatly impacted our community. These are just a few testimonials from the thousands of people SIRCH has helped over the years:

"I know about hard times! A couple of winters ago I lost my job and we had to move to a cheaper place. We'd wake up on a cold day with ice on our bedroom walls! We'd tuck our kids in with extra blankets, and hang blankets over our doors at night to keep out the cold. It was a really tough winter! There were times my wife and I would skip meals to make sure the kids ate. Thank goodness for SIRCH. They gave us meals made by their Community Kitchen volunteers. Some days we might not have eaten if it wasn't for SIRCH."

"I rarely have enough food to get me through the month. I also have physical limitations that make preparing nearly impossible. At times, my fridge and freezer are completely empty. SIRCH meals are always healthy, made with real meat and vegetables. It's safe to say that I might not be here without them."

You can support SIRCH by donating to its Gifts from the Heart campaign online at **www.sirch.on.ca/gifts** or by phoning 705-457-1742.

SIRCH community services

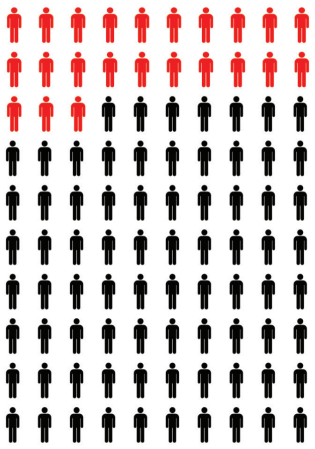
www.sirch.on.ca
705-457-1742

SIRCH Community Services - Gifts from the Heart

The Need

Haliburton County is known for its beautiful natural settings, its vibrant arts scene, being a cottager's paradise, and the generosity of its residents. But beneath all this is a surprising level of poverty and hardship that makes it challenging for some families to get ahead.

In Haliburton County, the child poverty rate is 23%.



This means children may not have adequate access to food, clothing, transportation, and other resources.

17.2% of all Haliburton County households are considered low income.

And Haliburton County has the second highest cost of living in Ontario! It's not cheap to live here. This impacts a family's ability to put food on the table, get to and from work, and provide heat, clothing, and other necessities of living.

SIRCH Helps

For 30 years, with your help, SIRCH Community Services has been addressing challenges facing County residents by providing programs, training opportunities, and social enterprises that offer a hand up—not a hand out.

Community Kitchen

Ken Mott of the Wilberforce Food Bank is well aware of the issues and challenges facing families in Haliburton County. "The food bank's clients often struggle to access nutritional food," he commented. "SIRCH's efforts to provide meals that are tasty and nutritious makes a huge difference to people's lives. Our clients really appreciate the food prepared by SIRCH's Community Kitchen."

Noni Richardson of West Guilford has been volunteering with SIRCH's Community Kitchen for over 10 years. "Volunteering is my way of giving back to this great community," Noni exclaims. "When I began volunteering, I met an exceptionally wonderful group of ladies. I truly enjoy the kitchen comradery." Noni is one of many dedicated volunteers who cook and freeze nutritious, appetizing meals that are distributed through local food banks, community agencies, and SIRCH groups.

Last year, SIRCH's Community Kitchen provided 3,600 nutritious frozen meals free to those in need.

Apple Sauce Project

The Applesauce Project is an amazing community initiative that turns unused apples from local trees into apple sauce for seniors and families. Local residents donate apples from trees on their properties. A team of volunteers pick the apples. Other volunteers wash, cut, cook, process, package, and freeze the applesauce, which is then distributed through Meals on Wheels and local food banks—it truly is a collaborative effort.

In 2019, SIRCH and community partners made 1,694 containers of applesauce.

"The Apple Sauce Project is a great example of community partners successfully working together to ensure everyone in our community has access to fresh, local and nutritious food," said Kate Hall of the Health Unit.

Visit **www.sirch.on.ca/applesauceproject** to watch a video about the Applesauce Project.

Lunch Is On Us

From November through March, SIRCH offers a free lunch once a week in Haliburton Village, and a free lunch in Minden from March to mid-May. It's our way of giving back to a generous community. Hearty, delicious food is served, and everyone is welcome. In both venues, the atmosphere is almost electric, as people talk and laugh and connect with old friends or make new ones.

In 2019, we expect to provide 1,920 free nutritious lunches to County residents.

Launch Sponsor

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Thank you to the sponsors of our

SIRCH Community Services - Gifts from the Heart

43.5% of young children in Haliburton County are considered "vulnerable"

in at least one area of physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, communication skills, and general knowledge.

80% of Canadians over the age of 80 years feel lonely.

Haliburton County has the highest percentage of seniors of any county in Ontario. 1.4 million older Canadians currently suffer from loneliness. Prolonged social isolation is as damaging to health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

School's Cool

"We love the School's Cool program," said a parent whose child recently participated in School's Cool. "Our child has learned so much in just a short time."

School's Cool is a six-week kindergarten readiness program created by SIRCH Community Services to help children succeed in school and in life. In summer 2019, 30 children increased their developmental skills (language, math, psychological, social and self-help) by over one year in the six short weeks! Perfect for children entering kindergarten, or for those who have not done so well in junior kindergarten and need a boost.

"I have watched a few children who rarely spoke at the beginning, find their voices, and participate in group activities. They are much more self-confident," said Lynn McGillivray, a retired kindergarten teacher who volunteered with School's Cool during summer 2019. "I would recommend the School's Cool program for any child going into kindergarten. I wish I had known about the program when I was teaching."

Family Roots

"I volunteered with SIRCH in the mid-1990s. As soon as I heard they had a new pilot project for seniors, I wanted to participate," said volunteer Nancy Baker of Cardiff.

Family Roots trains senior volunteers in genealogy research. Volunteers are then matched with seniors who may be more isolated to help them research their own family trees while building personal and family connections.

"I learned a lot from the training sessions," explained Nancy. "But more importantly, I got to meet new people, people with similar interests, I've always loved working with seniors, so being matched with a more isolated senior has been a great experience. Helping her develop her family tree has been really rewarding—in fact, we learned we are distantly related! I've made a new friend!"

Visit **www.sirch.on.ca/familyroots** to watch a video about Family Roots.

2019 Gifts from the Heart campaign!

CURRY GMC

heat-line Freeze Protection Systems

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WEST GUILFORD Shopping Centre

TEAM HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS at RE/MAX North Country THH Realty, Brokerage* Troy AUSTEN & Jeff WILSON

castle building centres Emmerson Lumber

Floyd Hall Limited Insurance Brokers fhl

G.J. BURTCH CONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISES LTD.

Looking Glass Salon

Wind in the Willows Day Spa & Boutique

Gifts from the Heart

Support SIRCH

There are so many ways you can support SIRCH Community Services. Donate to our Gifts from the Heart campaign, and consider volunteering your time, growing food, or partnering in other meaningful ways.

Why I volunteer at SIRCH

"In the winter, it's just me, my husband, and the snowplow driver," laughed Maureen Blakelock of Redstone Lake. "Winter can be quite isolating. That's why I volunteer with SIRCH—for the camaraderie, the sense of fun."

Maureen volunteers with SIRCH's Community Kitchen, the Family Roots pilot project, and the Apple Sauce Project.

"I love cooking. It's rewarding knowing the food we prepare in the Community Kitchen will benefit people in need. It's also a very social experience. It's hard to think of just a single favourite moment—all the moments in the Community Kitchen are my favourite," laughs Maureen. "I also love genealogy. Family Roots given me the chance to learn more about family research, and it's given me the chance to socialize with my senior match."

Visit ***www.sirch.on.ca/support*** to learn about volunteering opportunities.

Why we donate to SIRCH

For the third year in a row, Minden Subaru is the official Launch Sponsor of SIRCH's Gifts from the Heart campaign.

"Minden Subaru is so pleased to be the Launch Sponsor of SIRCH's Gifts from the Heart campaign," said Tammy Larue, Owner/Operator of Minden Subaru. "SIRCH provides programs and services that meet the needs of our community. I'm a past member of SIRCH's board of directors, so I know firsthand the amazing work the organization undertakes. Minden Subaru is so happy to support SIRCH in its efforts to ensure people feel supported and connected."

As a non-profit charitable organization, SIRCH relies on the financial contributions of individuals and local businesses to help accomplish its mission. Your donations enable SIRCH to provide programs to children, families and our community. You make a difference!

SUBARU

You can help too!

As a non-profit charitable organization, SIRCH relies on the financial contributions of individuals and local businesses to help accomplish its mission. By generously donating to SIRCH's Gifts from the Heart campaign, your contributions will help SIRCH provide free food and other programs for children, families, and seniors in need.

Charitable tax receipts are issued for donations of $20 or more.

Visit **www.sirch.on.ca/gifts** or phone 705-457-1742 to make a donation by Visa or Mastercard.

Visit our offices at 49 Maple Avenue, Unit 4, Haliburton, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to make a donation by cash, cheque, Visa or Mastercard.

Gifts from the Heart

☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ Other $_____

☐ I wish to make a monthly donation on my credit card. Amount: $ _____

☐ Cheque enclosed (payable to SIRCH Community Services; "Gifts" on the info line)

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card Number _____ Card expiry date _____

Name on Credit Card _____ Card CCV _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Address _____

Registered charity #130588767 RR0001 ***Dec. 5, 2019***

Mail this form to SIRCH Community Services,
P.O. Box 687, 49 Maple Avenue, Unit 4, Haliburton ON K0M 1S0

SIRCHCommunityServices

@sirchcs

@sirchcs

SIRCH community services

Above, the Minden Pride float brought extra colour to the already vibrant parade.

Right, this member of the Kawartha Kavaliers had a permanent smile throughout the performance at the parade.

/Photos by Jenn Watt

Night of excitement

The Haliburton Santa Claus Parade was another success this year, with plenty of colour and fun.

Above, the Haliburton County Farmers' Association decorated a bale of hay for their float.

Left, Kate Butler scoops candy out of her basket to hand out to kids along the route.

24th Annual Christmas Challenge

Join the Haliburton County Home Builders' Association and help us to make a difference!

As the Christmas party season commences,The Haliburton County Home Builders would like to encourage you to include its Christmas Challenge in your plans. Large or small, each gift will help fill the Christmas hampers distributed by the Food Banks in Haliburton County.
This is the 24th anniversary of the Christmas Challenge. Whether this is the first year you have taken the challenge or the 24th year all gifts are needed. If you aren't sure what to collect simply gather local gift certificates. A value of $15.00 each make is easy to top up gifts for families who have teenagers

STEP 1: Call 705-457-6901 in advance to arrange a date to pick up your gifts

STEP 2: Collect unwrapped toys or food items at your office or your Christmas Party.

Haliburton County Home Builders Association

CALL 705-457-6901 and book a time for your gift pick up then start collecting.

Remember to make the most of the Challenge have your gifts ready for pick up **BEFORE** December 13th.

County Sign & Display · CANOE 100.9 FM · 93.5 Moose FM · NORTRAX www.nortrax.com · The Echo · The Times

Join us for a
Free Turkey Dinner
Sunday, December 8
Everyone is welcome!
Visit with Santa from 5 pm - 7 pm
Donations welcome but not necessary.
Gifts for the children.

DINE WITH US · West G Pizza & Grill · TAKE OUT • SOFT SERVE

705 754 9141
1008 ST. ANDREW'S COURT, WEST GUILFORD

LIONS INTERNATIONAL

2nd Annual Haliburton Lions Children's Christmas Party

Sunday, December 15, 2019
3:00 to 4:30 pm
Haliburton United Church
10 George St., Haliburton
Free to children ages 4 to 8
(Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3)
Songs, Games, Crafts, Treats, A New Book for Every Child

Space is limited. Registration is required. Parents / Guardians please call Tina at 705-457-9399

Register now!

Reverse advent calendar gives food to 4Cs

Members of the Haliburton and District Lions Club drop off a mountain of food for the 4Cs in Haliburton on Nov. 26 as part of their "reverse advent calendar" campaign. /JENN WATT Staff

JENN WATT
County Life Editor

The Lions Club delivered a large collection of food to the 4Cs food bank on Tuesday, Nov. 26 as part of their "reverse advent calendar," where members collected a different item each day for the month of November to be donated.

For example, Nov. 12 Lions were asked to set aside cranberry sauce. On Nov. 23 it was a can of carrots.

The issue of hunger is a "pillar of service" for the Lions Club and this initiative was part of their efforts to curb the problem in the Haliburton community.

Judy MacDuff of the 4Cs met the Lions on Tuesday morning and said that right now there are four volunteers working at the food bank helping to distribute food during the holiday season, including the Christmas voucher program. Last year, 273 vouchers were given out.

The food from the Lions Club will stock the shelves for January.

MacDuff said they also raise money through online sales of used items that come in through the Lily Ann across the street. They average $600 a month through a Haliburton Facebook auction group.

She also wanted to tell the community that longtime volunteer Rose Barry has retired after spending decades with the organization. She started on the board 27 years ago and was a volunteer before that. Her work was greatly appreciated by the community.

THIS IS A FREE EVENT!
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
Haliburton Rotary Community Christmas & Skating Party
Friday, December 6th, 2019
Bring the Whole Family for an Evening of Festive Fun!
Skating Music Hot Cocoa Pizza & Treats Games Prizes
Presents for all the kids! Bring your camera for a picture with Santa!
AJ LaRue Arena, Haliburton:
SKATING: 5:30pm – 7:30pm
SHOOT TO WIN: 6:30pm – 7pm
ENTER TO WIN
1 of 6 Turkey Gift Certificates!
Draw to be held at 7:30 pm
Royal Canadian Legion, Haliburton:
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES:
with Brandon Stamp of "The Right Brained Mom": 6pm – 7pm
PIZZA & GOODIES:
6:30pm – 8pm
VISIT SANTA:
7pm – 8pm
SPONSORED BY:
THE ROTARY CLUB OF HALIBURTON

'Ukuladies' to sing songs of the season at Rails End

It was so much fun last year they've decided to do it again. The Rails End Ukuladies invite the community to gather round around the Christmas tree and sing after work or school Friday, Dec. 13.

Not sure of the words? Verses will be projected on the wall for all to see and sing along. Instruments are welcome, especially ukuleles! The music begins at 4:30 p.m. and runs until 6:30 and everyone is welcome to this family friendly singalong.

The Ukuladies started up at Rails End Gallery about five years ago when a few women had the idea that they'd like to learn to play the ukulele. Initially self taught, they soon realized a few lessons were in order and found their first teacher - Joey - who introduced the "ladies" to Haliburton at the Folk Society Open Stage where they have performed twice.

A workshop with October Browne and a few Winter Folk Camps later and the group now plays a repertoire based on traditional and contemporary songs of life's ups and downs. Though called the "Ukuladies," men are always welcome at practices, which are held every Thursday from 5 until 7 p.m.

Recently some of the Ukuladies became students of local musician, Nick Russell. They are regular guests on CanoeFM 100.9 with the effervescent Penny Randall-Mowbray. To learn more please contact Laurie at info@railsendgallery.com.

GET IT online
www.haliburtonecho.ca

Community Events

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS MUSEUM | 66 MUSEUM ROAD, HALIBURTON
December 15
JOLLY JOG
Registration: 10:00am - 11:00am
Run/Walk: 11:00am
Retro Festivities @ the Museum following Run/Walk
Follow Dysart Recreation on Facebook for updates and more information

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General Contractor Specializing in
Custom Built Country Homes,
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email: info@rodcoen.com website: www.rodcoen.com
phone: 705.457.1224 fax: 705.457.1900 toll free: 1.866.343.4985

Christmas in The Highlands
When: Wed. Dec. 4, 2 p.m.
Where: Highland Hills United Church, Minden.
Come and celebrate the joy of the Christmas season
Donations to the Minden Food Bank most appreciated.
All are welcome!

Kinmount Christmas Tree Lighting
When: Thursday, Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Kinmount Railway Station
Carol singing, pictures with Santa, refreshments

Haliburton Highlands Land Trust Open House and Enviro-Hero Awards
When: Thursday, Dec. 5, from 1 to 4 p.m.
Where: HHLT Office, 739 Mountain St. Haliburton
Join us in thanking our volunteers, say hello to friends and enjoy a treat. Enviro-Hero Awards will take place at 2 p.m. All welcome!

St. Paul's Anglican Church Children's Christmas Gift Sale
When: Friday Dec. 6, 4 to 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 to 2 p.m.
Where: St. Paul's Anglican Church, 19 Invergordon Ave, Minden
Nothing cost more than $1.00
Children come and shop for Christmas Gifts for family & friends. We will help the children shop, wrap and tag the gifts, they will be ready to take home and put under the tree.

Christmas Luncheon
When: Friday, Dec. 6, 11:30 to 1:30 p.m.
Where: Our Lady of Fatima Church, 7 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden
Bucket draw, Santa squares, bake sale.
Admission by donation (Snow Date Dec. 7)

Kinmount Christmas in the Village
When: Saturday, Dec. 7
Where: Kinmount
Pancake breakfast at St. James Church from 8:30 to 11 a.m.
Christmas market, wagon rides, Kinney the Elf hunt, Legion Christmas party at 2 p.m. Christmas Music Night at Galway Hall at 7 p.m. with Frank and Chanda Leahy and Family with loonie auction and desserts. For tickets to the music night, call 705-488-2635

Gord Kidd & Friend, Don Stiver & Ian Pay
When: Saturday, Dec.7, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Where: Kinmount Legion
For more information: https://www.gordkidd.com/

Join Gord Kidd & Friend, Don Stiver & Ian Pay for a Country Christmas Show
Date: Saturday, Dec.7, 2 to 5 p.m.
Where: Minden Legion
Light lunch available 12 to 2 p.m. meat draw 1 p.m.
No cover charge. Support your local Legion.

Santa's Workshop, Craft Sale & Luncheon
When: Saturday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Lloyd Watson Community Centre in Wilberforce.
Shop unique items from area vendors.
Members of St. Margaret's Anglican Church will have lunch available

Fill the Cruiser Food Drive
When: Dec. 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: Wilberforce Foodland
Support the Wilberforce and Cardiff food banks and the OPP and participate in the "fill the cruiser" food drive. Cash donations made on the day will be topped up by Sobey's!

Santa at Lockside Trading Company
When: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at both locations in Young's Point and Haliburton
Days and locations as follows:
Sat. Dec.7 - Haliburton
Sun. Dec.8 -Young's Point
Sat Dec.14 - Haliburton
Sun.Dec.15 - Young's Point
Santa will be there for wishes and pictures. Do not forget your letters for Santa! They will be mailed out with return letters from Old Saint Nick himself. All proceeds going to Jack's Journey & MPS II Research Fund to learn more about Jack and MPS II visit www.jacksjourney.ca/ and www.lockside.com

Manse Open House
When: Sat. Dec. 7, 2 to 4 p.m.
Where: 6 Winchester St.
Rev. Max Ward and his family. Drop in!

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 Haliburton Ladies Auxiliary Sunday Breakfast
When: Sunday, Dec. 8, 9:30 to 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion, Main Hall
Cost: $6
Menu: eggs or pancakes, bacon or sausage, hash browns, toast, orange juice, tea/coffee.

Free Turkey Dinner
When: Sunday, Dec. 8
Where: West G Pizza, 1008 Andrews Court, West Guilford
Visit with Santa from 5 to 6 p.m.
Everyone is welcome! Donations welcome but not necessary.
Gifts and treats for the children.
Contact: 705-754-9141

Wilberforce Santa Parade
When: Sunday, Dec. 8
Starts at the school at 12:30 p.m. and parades down main street to the Lloyd Watson Centre
Children 10 and under register at the door to receive a free picture with Santa and a present, candy bag, pop and hotdog
Contact Ruth Strong to participate, rstrong@highlandseast.ca

Highlands Wind Symphony, Christmas Concert
When: Dec. 8, 3 p.m.
Where: Northern Lights Pavilion, Haliburton
$15 per person or $30.00 per family
Featuring: Highlands Wind Symphony, Highlands Swing Band with vocalist Jerelyn Craden, Solo vocalist Chris Chumbley accompanied by Bill Gliddon
Tickets at Masters Bookstore, Haliburton or Minden Pharmasave
Call or text 705-457-7894 for more info

Family Christmas Service and White Gift Sunday
When: Sunday, December 8, 11:15 a.m.
Where: Haliburton United Church, 10 George St. at Pine St., Haliburton
Lunch following the service
Donations to Haliburton 4Cs

EH! Enviro-Cafe
When: Tues. Dec 10 7:30 p.m.
Where: Highland Hills U. C., Minden
What: Sue Shikaze will talk about how climate change will affect our health
Admission by donation, Refreshments
More info: Susan Hay: 705-457-9239

Lochlin United Church Annual Community Old Fashioned Christmas Carol Sing Along
When: Wednesday, Dec.11, 7:30 p.m.
Where: 1050 Lochlin Road off Gelert Road (County Road 1).
Great music accompaniment with Rev. Harry Morgan and "Friends."
Refreshments following: Hot cider and Christmas goodies
Donations to the Food Banks gratefully accepted.

Sexual Health Clinic
When: Wednesday, December 11, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm.
The clinic provides clients with confidential access to cervical screening, low-cost birth control, pregnancy testing and sexual health teaching. Testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections are also provided. For more information, locations or to make an appointment, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 1205.

An Old-Fashioned Christmas
When: Wed, December 11, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Highland Hills United Church in Minden.
Christmas music presented by the Highlands Concert Band, and the Highlands Male Chorus. Entry by donation, and the funds raised will go to Abbey Retreat Centre and Food for Kids.

West Guilford Community Christmas Dinner
Medeba would like to invite you to our 6th annual complimentary Christmas Dinner
When: Saturday, Dec.14, Appetizers at 5:30 p.m., Dinner at 6 p.m.
Where: Medeba Dining Hall, 1270 Kennisis Lake Road
RSVP: Please RSVP by Friday, Dec. 6/19 to Katie by phone 705-754-2444 or by email (katie@medeba.com)

Haliburton Lions Children's Christmas Party
When: Sunday, Dec. 15, 3 to 4:30 p.m.
Where: Haliburton United Church
Free to children age 4 to 8 (Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3). There will be songs, games, crafts, treats and a new book for every child. Space is limited and registration is required. Parent or Guardian please call Tina at 705 457-9399 to register.
For more information, please visit our website at haliburtonlion.com

Glorious Christmas
When: Sunday, Dec. 15, 9:30 a.m.
Where: Highland Hills United Church, Minden
Brunch following, by donation. Joint Worship Service - churches will worship together 9:30 a.m. in Minden

Essonville Historic Church Christmas Service
When: Dec. 15, 7 p.m.
Where: 1284 Essonville Line, County Rd. 4
A celebration of Christmas with special music and congregational carol singing in an old-fashioned setting illuminated by candles and lanterns

"Come & Adore Him" Cantata by Haliburton United Church Choir
When: Sunday, Dec. 15, 11:15 a.m.
Where: Haliburton United Church, 10 George St. at Pine St., Haliburton
Directed by Melissa Stephens

Hyland Crest Musical Christmas, Minden
When: Tuesday, Dec.17, 10:30 a.m.
This ecumenical program celebrates the season.

Christmas Eve Service (with choir)
When: Dec. 24, 4 p.m.
Where: Highland Hills United Church, Minden

Christmas Eve Service
When: Tuesday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m.
Where: Haliburton United Church, 10 George St. at Pine St., Haliburton
Joint Pastoral Charge Evening Service – Communion and Special Guest Music Artists

Want to get your event in Community Calendar? It's free!
Contact Pat at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com.

WHAT'S ON stage THIS SUMMER

Highlands summer festival 2020 Live Theatre

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

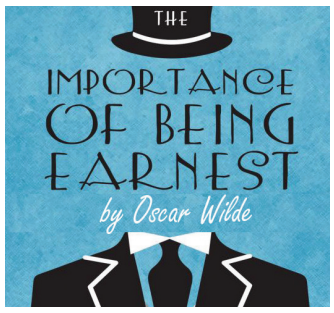
Music by *RICHARD RODGERS*
Lyrics by *OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II*
Book by *HOWARD LINDSAY* and *RUSSEL CROUSE*

The Sound of Music, the final collaboration between Rodgers & Hammerstein, returns to the Highlands Summer Festival stage this summer! The show is filled with music to delight the ears and fill your heart. When a postulant proves too high-spirited for convent religious life, she is dispatched to serve as governess for the seven children of a widowed naval Captain. Her growing rapport with the youngsters, coupled with her generosity of spirit, gradually captures the heart of the stern Captain, and they marry. Upon returning from their honeymoon they discover that Austria has been invaded by the Nazis, who demand the Captain's immediate service in their navy. The family's narrow escape over the mountains to Switzerland on the eve of World War II provides one of the most thrilling and inspirational finales ever presented in the theatre. Don't be disappointed! The last time we presented The Sound of Music it was a complete sellout. **Youth pricing ($20/seat, 18 & under) for all three matinee performances.** ***Performances: June 29, 30 (7:30 p.m.), July 1 (2 p.m.) July 2 (7:30 p.m.), July 3, 5 (2 p.m. matinee), July 6-9 (7:30 p.m.).***

Season Pass SALE

Highlands Summer Festival Season Pass
All 5 Shows
Only $160.
Single ticket prices $37.50 each
After January 15, 2020
All performances take place at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion (NLPAP) in Haliburton, unless otherwise noted.

Performances June 29th - Aug 6th



The Importance of Being Earnest

by Oscar Wilde

One of the cleverest comedies by one of the greatest writers in the English language, The Importance of Being Earnest has delighted audiences since its premiere in 1885. Oscar Wilde's scintillating, hilarious work introduces us to Jack and Algernon, charming bachelors who are each living a double life, aided by a fictional alter ego called "Ernest." But the two fall truly in love with a pair of proper young women, Gwendolen and Cecily – both of whom are partial to men named Ernest. Will Jack and Algy be able to bring an end to the charade and convince the formidable Lady Bracknell that they are suitable candidates for marriage? Wicked wit and dead-on social satire are wrapped in a confection of dual identities, matrimonial matters, Victorian social conventions and the provenance of a particular handbag. ***Performances July 13-16 (7:30 p.m.), July 17 & 19 (2 p.m. matinee), July 20, 21 (7:30 p.m.).***

Lucien

Written & Performed by Marshall Button

Lucien, the opinionated mill-worker and New Brunswick's Blue-Collar Philosopher, has enjoyed a 25 year run since he first appeared in Fredericton, as part of a satirical Bicentennial revue, Maritime Mixed Grill. The show now plays like a comedic period-piece while also skewering contemporary issues. Lucien hearkens back to an era when jobs were plentiful, unions were strong and job security was not a dirty word. Marshall Button developed the character Lucien based on his experiences working in the paper mill in his hometown of Dalhousie, New Brunswick and is nearing 2000 performances of Lucien, from coast to coast in every Canadian province. ***Performances July 22, 23 (7:30 p.m.),24 (2 p.m. matinee).***

Every Brilliant Thing

by Duncan Macmillan with Jonny Donahoe

You're six years old. Mum's in hospital. Dad says she's "done something stupid." She finds it hard to be happy. So you start to make a list of everything that's brilliant about the world. Everything that's worth living for….. 1. Ice cream. 2. Kung Fu movies. 3. Burning things. 4. Laughing so hard you shoot milk out your nose. 5. Construction cranes. 6. Me. You leave it on her pillow. You know she's read it because she's corrected your spelling. Soon, the list will take on a life of its own. Every Brilliant Thing is an uplifting play about depression and the lengths we will go to for those we love.

"A heart-wrenching, hilarious play…One of the funniest plays you'll ever see about depression—and possibly one of the funniest plays you'll ever see, full stop…There is something tough being confronted here—the guilt of not being able to make those we love happy—and it is explored with unflinching honesty." —The Guardian (UK)

Performances July 27-30 (7:30 p.m.), 31 (2 p.m. matinee).

Across the Pond

starring Leisa Way & The Lonely Hearts Club Band

The British Invasion went by the code word, "Beatlemania". Leisa Way and the Lonely Hearts Club Band capture the musical magic of the era in a fast-paced show filled with music and laughs. After the Fab Four appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show in 1964, North American music was never the same! Across the Pond celebrates over 50 years of British pop and rock music. You'll hear hits of The Beatles, Dave Clark Five, Herman's Hermits, Elton John, Petula Clark, Tom Jones, Queen, The Rolling Stones, Shirley Bassey, Gerry & the Pacemakers, The Animals, Dusty Springfield, Rod Stewart, Adele, Eric Clapton, Van Morrison, Sting, Annie Lennox, Led Zeppelin, Joe Cocker, Lulu, The Hollies - and more! ***Performances Aug 2-3 (2 p.m. matinee), Aug 4-6 (7:30 p.m.).***

Special Price ends January 15th, 2020

Call for more information & order your passes - you can also order your passes on our secure website

Toll Free 855.457.9933

705.457.9933 HighlandsSummerFestival.on.ca

SIRCH Gifts From the Heart campaign begins

DARREN LUM
County Life Staff

Giving to SIRCH through its Gifts from the Heart campaign this season will go a long way to contributing to its many programs that enrich the lives of area residents in Haliburton County.

SIRCH is a non-profit organization that has operated for 30 years. It has offered programs, training opportunities, and social enterprises to address issues of poverty, food insecurity, isolation, and training.

The Gifts from the Heart campaign is in its eighth year and hopes to raise $35,000.

"SIRCH is all about levelling the playing field and giving a hand up," said Gena Robertson, executive director of SIRCH. " Everyone goes through hard times and everyone can use a friend during those times. Gifts from the Heart donors are those friends. We can help our neighbours put food on their table, or gain skills to get a job, or just not feel so alone, but we couldn't do it without the generosity of the people who donate to Gifts from the Heart. They are the ones who are truly making a difference."

Among the SIRCH programs include the Community Kitchen, which is comprised of a team of volunteers, who cook and freeze nutritious, appetizing meals that are distributed through local food banks and community agencies; the Apple Sauce Project, which is a community initiative to harvest apples from local trees to produce apple sauce for seniors and families; Family Roots, a training opportunity for senior volunteers to learn about genealogy, who are then matched with seniors so they can research their own family trees; and School's Cool, a six-week kindergarten readiness program.

Last year according to SIRCH, they provided 3,600 nutritious frozen meals to those in need, provided 1,200 additional free sit-down lunches to provide connection during tough times, supported 40 mothers and 80 children who faced difficult situations, helped 33 children succeed in kindergarten and provided concrete skills to 14 people who subsequently found work.

A charitable tax receipt will be issued for donations of $20 or more.

Donate to SIRCH online or phone them at 705-457-1742. Cheques can be mailed to SIRCH Community Services, P.O. Box 687, 49 Maple Ave., Unit 4, Haliburton, ON, K0M 1S0.

Volunteer fixers needed for SIRCH's new Repair Cafés

Are you a tinker? A fixer? A mender? A repairer? Can you fix small appliances like broken toasters or blenders? Do you know how to mend ripped clothes? Change a bike tire? Fix broken electronics? Mend a cracked vase? Repair a torn book cover? Darn socks? Level a wobbly table?

SIRCH Community Services is looking for volunteers to join our team of Repair Café Fixers.

Volunteer Fixers will help people mend their broken items at SIRCH's new Repair Cafés.

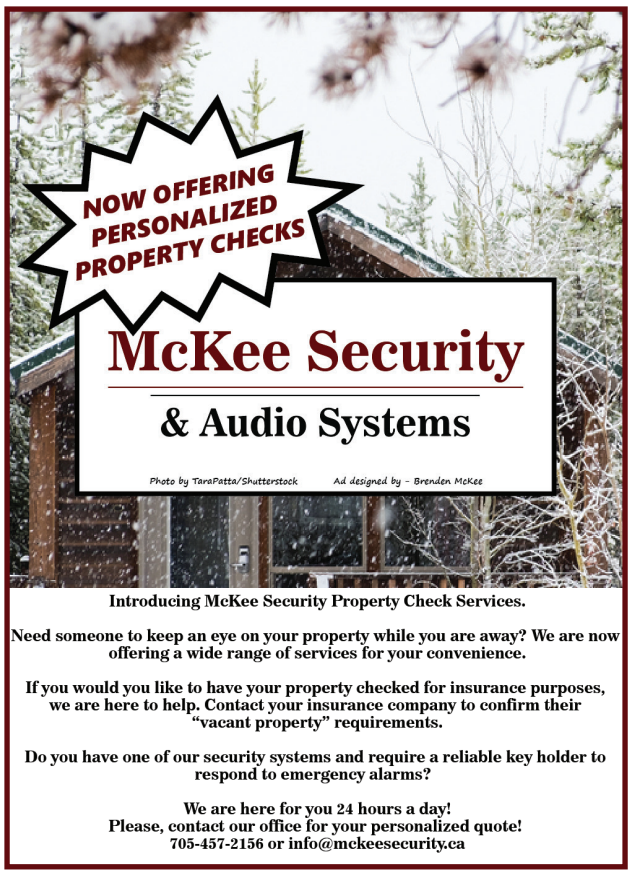
Repair Cafés help people repair broken household items – computers, electronics, small appliances, small furniture, clothes, jewelry, books, bikes and more – that could otherwise end up in landfills. Originally begun in 2009 in the Netherlands, Repair Cafés now take place all over the world. SIRCH is excited to bring Repair Cafés to Haliburton County. SIRCH is organizing a series of Repair Cafés in Haliburton County from January to August 2020.

A recent study states that Canadians produce more garbage per capita than any other country on earth. Each Canadian generates approximately 2.7 kg of garbage each day. Communities across the country – including Haliburton County – struggle with an increasing amount of residential waste that ends up in local landfills. SIRCH's Repair Cafés are a vital way to help reduce the amount of waste that needs to be disposed of by giving household items a new life thanks to volunteer Fixers!

"We're especially looking for people who are handy repairing clothing, textiles, bicycles, electrical appliances, furniture, and wood items," said Chris Varga, SIRCH's Repair Café Co-ordinator. "As a Fixer, you'll be able to put your skills to great use, helping others repair broken items that would be serviceable if fixed, or items that have sentimental value."

People interested in becoming a volunteer Fixer can

see REPAIR page 25



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Please, contact our office for your personalized quote!
705-457-2156 or info@mckeesecurity.ca

NEW EARLY BIRD DRAW DATES!

★ December 5, 2019 – $1,000
★ January 15, 2020 – $1,000

8th Annual Cash for Care Lottery

3 TICKET PURCHASE OPTIONS

★ 7 for $100 Best Value ★ 3 for $50 ★ 1 for $20

Funds raised support the purchase of important medical equipment for healthcare in the Haliburton Highlands.
Only 4,500 tickets printed!

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7199 Gelert Road, P.O. Box 1413,Haliburton, ON K0M1S0
30 McPherson Street, P.O. Box 30, Minden, ON K0M2K0

3 FINAL DRAWS
FEBRUARY 14, 2020
★ $20,000 ★ $2,000 ★ $1,000

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Legion Events

Branch 636 Minden

Monday – Thursday Lunch 12 to 2 p.m.
Tuesday Special liver day, regular menu also.
Friday 12 to 2 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m., Fish, Chicken Wings, Fries and Onion Rings.
Daily events: Monday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Haliburton Highlands Rug Hookers. (every two weeks)

Tuesday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Senior art group. 1 to 4 p.m., Bid Euchre,
Wednesday 12 - Meat Draws, 4 butcher quality meats for $1 a ticket. 1 to 4 p.m., Ladies Darts, 5 to 7 p.m. Calorie Counters 5"30 to 6:30 p.m.
Thursday 7 p.m. Darts. 7 p.m. Euchre
Friday Every second week, Karaoke with Fred and Linda, 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.
Saturday Special Lunch every week with meat Draw at 1 p.m.
Sunday Sports Day 12 to 4:30 p.m.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Friday Fish & Chips 6 to 9 p.m. Jam session 7:30 p.m.
Saturday Meat draw 2 p.m. Early bird 3 p.m. Sharp! If you come out offer to help sell tickets please!
Sunday L.A. Breakfast 9 to 12 p.m.
Monday Bid Euchre 7 p.m. Beginner's welcome.
Wednesday Fun Darts 7:30 p.m. Beginner's welcome.
Tuesday General meeting 7p.m.
Wednesday Fun darts 7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome
Thursday HHHC social rec. drop in. Come out for coffee/tea or juice, cards, board games, crafts, tech. time, pool or just to chat FREE 10a.m. - 2 p.m. Christmas theme, Bring $10 Grinch gift.
Upcoming Events
Dec 31 - New years dance. Tickets on sale now $20. Featuring D.J. Isla. Buffet, spot dances, party favours.
Having a event ? Book our hall and have L.A. cater for you. They do a great job! Want to get involved? Please call or drop by the legion 705-448-2221 now if you can help.

Branch 129 Haliburton

Dave Allen, PRO 705-457-2571
Mondays: Bridge every Monday at 1 p.m.
Tuesday Night Dart League starting at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start Bingo Doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. - $1,000 Jackpot - last Wednesday of the month.
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, starting at 7 p.m. All members urged to attend. Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Cribbage 1 p.m. start Meat Draw Five Draws, Five Prizes each draw, First draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw - 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $2 per draw. Chester Howse, MC Friday fun darts - 4:30 p.m. onwards
Saturdays: 50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw, Tickets are $1 each from noon onwards
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call the Legion today at 705-457-2571, email rcl129@bellnet.ca or visit haliburtonlegion.com Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129. Everyone is welcome!

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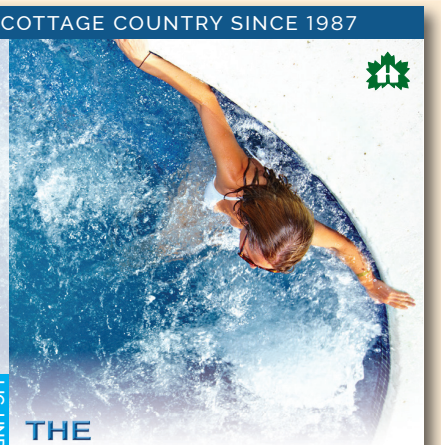
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BIG NEWS

385 PERSONALS

Michael from "Zoosk" who is living in Haliburton, Answer me @ Box 871, Haliburton, ON. with a message and your cell number and we can meet up.

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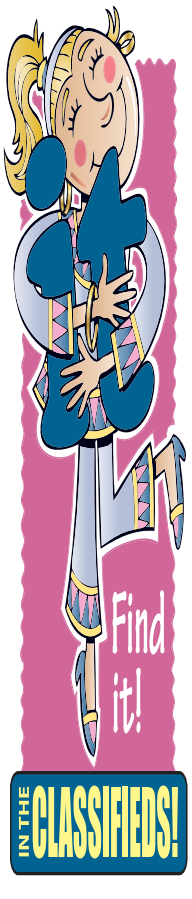

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Municipality of Dysart et al

Roads Department Equipment Operator – Full Time

Reporting to the Operations Manager, the successful applicant will have sound knowledge of the methods, tools, materials and equipment required for the general year-round maintenance of roads. Primary duties include, but are not limited to operation of light, medium & heavy duty trucks, combination snow plows, backhoe loaders and front end loaders. Previous road maintenance and/or construction experience is considered an asset.

Self-motivated applicants must be able to work outdoors in all weather conditions with minimal supervision. A valid Ontario Class 'D' licence with Air Brake 'Z' endorsement is required along with an acceptable abstract. Pursuant to CUPE Local #2142 the rate of pay is $24.48 per hour consisting of a 40-hour work week.

Interested individuals are invited to email a detailed resume and cover letter in confidence to:

Cheryl Coulson, Clerk
ccoulson@dysartetal.ca
No Later Than 12:00 pm Friday, December 13th, 2019.

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Your compassionate support of YWCA Women's Centre and Haliburton Emergency Rural SafeSpace (HERS) means that women and children in Haliburton County have a safe place to turn when it's too dangerous to stay at home.
To learn more about how your support helps, please give us a call at 705-286-1942.
YWCA
PETERBOROUGH HALIBURTON

Repair Cafés planned for new year

from page 21

complete a Volunteer Application Form at www.sirch.on.ca/repaircafe or contact SIRCH by phoning 705-457-1742 or emailing info@sirch.on.ca.

If you have an item that is broken and can likely be repaired, visit www.sirch.on.ca/repaircafe to learn about planned Repair Café events scheduled throughout Haliburton County from January to August 2020.

SIRCH's Repair Café is funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations. OTF awarded $108 million to 629 projects last year to build healthy and vibrant communities in Ontario.

-Submitted

Climate Change Hits Close to Home!

FACT: Research shows that climate change affects our health

- We see climate change hitting home here in more flooding, heat waves, and severe storms
- Climate change creates conditions that can lead to illness and injury. Seniors, young children, people living on low income and people with chronic illness are most at risk
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AUCTIONS

BUD HAYNES & WARD'S FALL FIREARMS Auction, Saturday, Dec. 7th at 10 AM. 11802-145 Street, Edmonton, AB. Over 700 Lots, On-Line bidding Antique & Modern Firearms, www.WardsAuctions.com. To consign, call Brad Ward 780-940-8378; Linda Baggaley 403-597-1095.

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Draw will be live on air at 93.5 Moose FM at noon Monday, December 23, 2019.
Shop at any participating Downtown Haliburton member businesses and enter a ballot which you will receive with your purchase. Enter as often as you like until Sunday, December 22, 2019.

*Subject to availability, peak travel time, and black outs. Must be 19 years of age or older to win. Winner is subject to contest rules. Contest rules available from Haliburton BIA.

INSIDE THIS WEEK:

RETIRING FROM POLITICS
After 69 years of serving ratepayers, Keith Tallman and Bill Howe retire

REALTY MERGER
Royal LePage buys Countrywide, creating largest local real estate business

A REALLY BAD PLAY
Little Theatre pokes fun at itself in spoof of A Christmas Carol production

THE ECHO
HALIBURTON COUNTY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2006 VOL. 123 NO. 46 $1.25 INCL. GST

Night parade bewitches huge crowd

GREG HOEKSTRA
Staff Reporter

By all accounts, Friday night's Santa Claus parade in Haliburton – the first ever evening parade in the village's history – was a great triumph for the community.

In fact, ever since Santa waved his final goodbye, parade coordinator Jim Frost says he's been overwhelmed with positive feedback from delighted parade-goers.

"I thought it was a terrific success, and we've actually been getting calls from people telling us what a terrific thing it was for the town," he says.

But it's not just community members who are praising this year's parade. Frost also received a phone call from a member of the North Hastings Pipe Band, who told him that it was "one of the best parades they have ever been in."

Frost says that public enthusiasm was a key factor in making the parade such an outstanding event for both those involved and those lining the sidewalks.

"The great thing was the level of community involvement. Everyone got on board and participated," he says. "We had far more businesses and groups put in entries than ever before. Everyone was talking about it for weeks, word was spreading from one group to another, and that made people want to participate."

In an impressive display of community spirit, a total of 47 entries was registered for this year's parade, including three bands, marching groups, floats,

See **Night** *page 2*

GREG HOEKSTRA/Echo

Donning a white tutu and sparkling tiara, sugar plum fairy Jordyn Archer gives parade-goers a taste of the Nutcracker Ballet, as well as how magical a night-time parade can be. Dancers from Haliburton's Heritage Ballet will perform the full production on December 9 and 10 at the Northern Lights Pavilion. More parade photos are on pages 9 and 10.

Highlands East decides on recount today

MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

As one of its last pieces of business, Highlands East council will vote today (November 28) whether to grant a candidate's request for a recount of the ballots in Ward 2.

Basil Cox, who lost by nine votes to incumbent Suzanne Partridge, notified the municipality on Thursday that he wants a recount. Since such requests must be ratified by council, and a meeting was already scheduled for Tuesday, a special meeting was not called to deal with the issue.

Under the Elections Act, the recount must be held in exactly the same manner as the counting of ballots on election night. Highlands East was the first and only municipality in the county to use an electronic tabulator and, if council grants the recount request, the electronic tabulator will be used the second time. The ballots cannot be counted by hand, says clerk Irene Cook.

As well, the recount cannot include the 740 ballots that were rejected by municipal staff because the ballot kits were improperly submitted. Some kits had declaration forms that weren't signed but the majority did not include a declaration form at all. It is suspected that

See **Highlands East** *page 21*

Tourists want special experience

STEVE GALEA
Special to The Echo

The face of tourism is changing. It's no longer just location, location, location. It's experience, experience, experience.

"Tourism is no longer just about visiting a place and looking at it from an outside perspective," Celes Devar said at Sir Sandford Fleming College's 12th Annual Tourism Leadership Skills Workshop Series recently. "Today people want to participate in local experiences. The most relevant quote I can think of is 'Staging experiences is not about entertaining customers, it's about engaging them.' That's exactly what tourism operators need to do to capture the market."

See **Arts** *page 13*

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Drag Lake $499,000 7.24AC
Colborne Lake $289,000 4.83AC
Harburn Road $108,000 44.17AC
Irondale River $79,000 3.22AC
Contau Lake Road $49,000 3.91AC
Old Donald Road $44,900 3.49AC
Wenona Lake $40,000 0.42AC
Fred Jones Road $25,000 0.38AC

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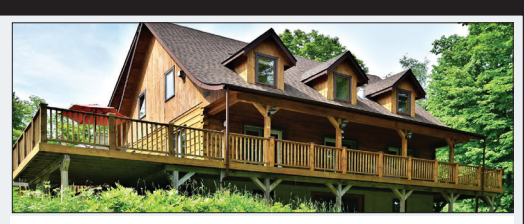

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COURTESY OF

Linda Baumgartner

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The Haliburton Real Estate Team

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